

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A strapping ~~Strapping~~ installation suitable for strapping objects (1), ~~in particular stacks of printed products such as newspapers or periodicals,~~ using a strap (6), the installation comprising:

a strapping position with a bearing surface (2),
means for positioning the objects to be strapped in the strapping position, and
means for removing the strapped objects from the strapping position in a conveying direction (F) oriented essentially parallel to the bearing surface (2),

~~the installation further comprising~~ a fastening region (3) located in the strapping position and equipped for supplying the strap (6) into a loop channel (4),
~~for securing a loop end (7), for retracting the strap (6) from the loop channel (4), and for fastening and severing a completed strapping, wherein the loop channel (4) extends from either side of the fastening region (3) in the shape of a groove in the bearing surface (2), characterized in that the installation further comprises~~and

a loop guide (10), said loop guide being stationary during ~~the~~ a strapping procedure, ~~which~~ said loop guide rises from the bearing surface (2) inside of the loop channel (4) and on one side of the strapping position and arches across or towards the strapping position ~~in such a manner that~~ such that the loop guide does not

obstruct positioning of the objects to be strapped (1) in the strapping position and such that a strap loop (6.2) slides on an outer surface of the loop guide (10), and wherein the strap loop (6.2) being supported and guided by beginning and end of the loop channel (4) and by the loop guide (10) is the shorter the higher it ~~the~~ the strap loop rises on the loop guide (10).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Strapping~~ The strapping installation according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means for positioning the object (1) to be strapped in the strapping position is equipped for supply from above towards the strapping position or essentially in the conveying direction (F), and ~~that~~ wherein the loop guide (10) arches towards the strapping position.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Strapping~~ The strapping installation according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means for positioning the object (1) to be strapped in the strapping position is equipped for supply essentially in the conveying direction (F) and ~~that~~ wherein the loop guide (10) arches across the strapping position.

4. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~ installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein, for longitudinal strapping, a beginning and an end of the groove-shaped loop channel (4) is aligned parallel to the conveying direction (F), and ~~that~~ the installation is further equipped for transverse strapping in the strapping position or in an additional strapping position following the strapping position in the conveying ~~direction~~ direction (F).

5. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~-installation according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a further loop channel (30) extending at a right angle to the conveying direction (F).

6. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the loop guide (10) comprises at least two or more ~~or more~~ slide rails (10.1, 10.2).

7. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~-installation according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove-shaped loop channel (4) comprises a concave bend between the guide rails (10.1 and 10.2) and ~~that~~ wherein, in ~~the~~ an area of the concave bend of the groove-shaped loop channel (4), an element rising from the bearing surface (2) is arranged on the outside of the loop channel (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~-installation according to ~~claims 5 and 7, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the element rising from the bearing surface (2) outside of the groove-shaped loop channel is the further loop channel (30), which extends across the strapping position above the loop guide (10).

9. (Currently Amended) The strapping ~~Strapping~~-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein, at least in the area where the loop guide (10) rises from the bearing surface, the groove-shaped loop channel (4) comprises an inner wall (4.2) slanting towards the bearing surface (2).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein at least part of the groove-shaped loop channel (4) is closeable.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10 characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the fastening region (3) is equipped to hold a tape-shaped strap (6) with ~~its width~~a width of the tape-shaped strap parallel to the bearing surface (2) and ~~that~~wherein the loop channel (4) comprises twists such that, in bent channel areas, the width of the tape-shaped strap (6) is positioned ~~with its width~~ vertical to the bearing surface (2).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the fastening region (3) comprises a rotating strap holding means (13, 14), by which ~~a~~the tape-shaped strap (6) is rotateable from a position, in which a its width of the tape-shaped strap is vertical to the bearing surface (2), to a position, in which ~~its~~the width of the tape-shaped strap is parallel with the bearing surface (2).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the fastening region (3) is equipped for holding a tape-shaped strap (6) with ~~its~~a width of the tape-shaped strap vertical to the bearing surface (2) and for fastening the strap in this position.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that it further comprises claim 1, further comprising~~ two or four pressing elements ~~which~~ that are capable to be lowered (42).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressing elements (42) are designed as knee levers (46) ~~being~~ that are rotateable around an axis (47).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 14 or 15, characterized in that~~ claim 14, wherein the pressing elements (42) comprise guide tapes (51) for guiding the strap loop (6), ~~which~~ said guide tapes form a guide channel (55) above the strapping position, ~~which~~ said guide channel (55) extends from the end of the loop guide (10) towards the strapping position and is open above the end of the loop guide (10).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The strapping~~ Strapping-installation according to ~~one of claims 14 to 16, characterized in that it further comprises claim 14, further comprising~~ means for positioning a cover sheet (60) on the object (1) to be strapped and ~~that~~ wherein the pressing elements (42) are equipped for displacing the cover sheet (60) while being lowered on to the object (1) to be strapped.

18. (New) The strapping installation according to claim 7, wherein the element rising from the bearing surface (2) outside of the groove-shaped loop

channel is the further loop channel (30), which extends across the strapping position above the loop guide (10).